

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7136

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1545

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV EI

SUBJ: ILLNESS OF FORMER IRISH PRESIDENT DE VALERA

REF: DUBLIN 1544

1. CHARGE HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION TODAY WITH GOI OFFICE OF PROTOCOL CONCERNING CONTINGENCY RPT CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THE FUNERAL OF MR. EAMONN DE VALERA, FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND (BIOGRAPHIC DATA SENT SEPTTEL). AS OF NOON AUGUST 28 FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA'S CONDITION IS STILL DETERIORATING. WERE HE TO DIE TODAY A STATE FUNERAL COULD BE SCHEDULED FOR AS EARLY AS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. WERE HE TO DIE OVER THE WEEKEND THE EARLIEST DATE FOR THE FUNERAL WOULD LIKELY BE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, WITH THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 AS AN ALTERNATE.

2. DESCRIPTION OF STATE FUNERAL: IF FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA IS GIVEN A STATE FUNERAL (WHICH IS LIKELY) IT WOULD FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING FORMAT: 10:00 A.M. SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC PRO-CATHEDRAL; CORTEGE TO FOLLOL THE HEARSE TO BURIAL SITE; IT IS UNDECIDED WHETHER OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS WILL BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN FOR GRAVESIDE CEREMONIES; RETURN TO DUBLIN CITY CENTER FOR A BUFFET RECEPTION, PROBABLY HOSTED BY PRESIDENT O DALAIGH; OFFICIAL CALLS ON PRESIDENT O DALAIGH BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS, PROBABLY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY AS THE FUNERAL.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS: THE DRESS FOR THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION WILL BE STRIPED PANTS, BLACK SWALLOW-TAIL MORNING COAT; BLACK UNCLASSIFIED

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VEST, BLACK TOP HAT, GREY GLOVES AND BLACK OR MIDNIGHT BLUE TOPCOAT

OR RAINCOAT. THE DELEGATION MUST RPT MUST BRING THIS ATTIRE WITH THEM BECAUSE RENTAL FACILITIES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED HERE. ONLY THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION WILL BE SEATED IN A PLACE OF HONOR; THE EMBASSY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMODATE SPOUSES ELSEWHERE IN THE PRO-CATHEDRAL BUT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT SEATING SPACE

IS LIMITED. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD INFORM UNOFFICIAL PROSPECTIVE ATTENDEES THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT WE CAN DO TO FACILITATE THEIR ADMISSION TO THE FUNERAL.

4. OUR BY-NOW-OUTDATED CONTINGENCY PLANS WERE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER ON MAY 28, 1971. SINCE THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE RETIRED ITS FILES WE WILL RETRANSMIT SUGGESTED CONTINGENCY CONDOLENCE MESSAGES BY SEPTELS. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO SENT FOUR CONDOLENCE MESSAGES: FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND; FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND; FROM THE PRESIDENT TO MAJOR VIVION DE VALERA AS THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FAMILY; FROM THE

SECRETARY OF STATE TO FOREIGN MINISTER GARRET FITZGERALD. WE WILL ALSO TRANSMIT BY SEPTEL A SUGGESTED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION. RENDAHL

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